



Established 1848.

ST. LOUIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1884.

No. 11, Vol. XXXVII.

## Sorgo Department.

**National Sugar Growers' Association.**  
OFFICERS FOR 1884.  
President—Norman J. Colman, St. Louis, Mo.  
Vice Presidents—Capt. R. Blackley, Minnesota; D. F. Konner, Louisiana; X. K. Stout, Kansas; A. Furnas, Indiana; C. F. Clark, Iowa; A. J. Decker, Wisconsin; A. G. Williams, New York; Dr. E. F. Newberry, Ill.  
Secretary—F. K. Gillespie, Edwardsville, Ills.  
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### Machinery for Making Bisulphite.

Since my reply to Mr. Folger in the RURAL WORLD of February 7th, I have received letters from all parts; from New York to Nebraska, from Georgia to Minnesota, showing that the sorghum men are interested in the subject, and that the RURAL WORLD has a wide circulation. From the tone of these letters I am led to believe that within a few years hundreds of "sorghumists" will be manufacturing this excellent bleacher. Although I have explained how to manufacture this article, and it may seem very plain to every reader, yet, from my experience, I know that each manufacturer will make mistakes that will annoy and cost money. To prevent this as far as possible, I give a description of my machinery and its cost.

My furnace has about 100 bricks in it, so arranged as to fit snugly around the kettle, which is hung by two iron rods run through the ears, and laid against the corners of the furnace. The top of the furnace is covered with mortar cemented around the kettle, so that no smoke or heat can escape. The door is as large as the front of the furnace, which has but three sides. An iron bar laid on the top connects the side walls in front. To this front a close-fitting sheet-iron door is placed, so that the fire can be controlled. For chimney I have four joints of stove pipe. The pipe, kettle, and iron rods, were old, and might be worth \$1. Brick cost 70 cents. Door 30 cents. Total cost of furnace \$2.00. Built it myself.

The jug is 15 inches high, 14 inches across at greatest bulge. Its neck is 12 inches high, 2 inches across at bottom, 2 1/4 at top, so made to fit the rubber stopper. It holds about 5 gallons. Cost, \$1. I burst from 1 to 3 jugs each season, mostly by carelessness, though the acid will eat through the best in time.

Rubber stopper is 3 inches long, 2 inches in diameter at bottom, 2 1/2 at top. An iron ring is fitted tightly around the top to keep it from spreading. Cost, 50 cents.

Copper pipe is 3-4 inches in diameter, 7 feet 3 inches long, arms 3 feet apart, long arm 2 feet longer than short arm, elbows circling instead of right angles. Cost, \$2.50.

The barrel in which we manufacture is somewhat larger than other barrels, so that it will completely fill other barrels at a single drawing. Cost, 75 cents. It should be of hard wood. Near the bottom of this barrel an iron pipe 6 inches long is screwed in, to which a globe valve is attached. The barrel is drawn off in, having the bung in the end, is laid on an incline, so that the bung is the highest part of the barrel. I have a pipe 18 inches long which I thrust into the bung, and screw the other end into the globe valve, and turn it off.

Two gallons of sulphuric acid makes about three barrels. The acid costs me 40 cents per gallon. Lime and charcoal costs about 15 cents per three barrels. Wood about 15 cents per three barrels. I made about 2500 gallons last year, at a cost of less than 50 cents per barrel, though I met with some accidents that caused a waste of material. I can make 3 barrels with an hour's work, though it takes 24 hours to make it. My machinery is under a shed adjoining the mill. Manufacture of the acid is a very simple and unoccupied at other work, they tend to this, whereas they would be idle if not thus employed, so I count no cost of time in the making.

Bisulphite must not be put into soft wood barrels, you want it to stay. Cost oil barrels can be bought and cleaned out for 60 cents apiece. Just here I want to insert a letter that will be of interest and profit to many sorghum men:

Mr. Anderson, I saw in the RURAL WORLD your question regarding the oil barrels. I have used them four years. Sirup will keep better in them than any barrel I can get. My plan is to buy in the spring the number I want, and fill them with rain water caught from my roof. I let them soak about two weeks, then empty and refill, leaving them two more weeks, then empty and fill in a dry place till about the 1st of August, then paint them. When the paint is dry, put a half gallon of un-salted lime in, and two or three gallons of hot water. Put the bung in, and roll about 15 minutes, empty and rinse out, leave barrels treated in this way, with planes in them, as fresh as though they were yesterday. You can detect no oil about it.

A. P. CLELAND.

Birmingham, Ind.

Some parties are paying \$2.25 for what

they could get for 60 cents. See report of the Wisconsin Convention 1883, page 56.

See Mr. Root's description of his machinery for making bisulphite and sulphurous acid. It makes me bold to ask this favor: Let every one who knows anything on the subject, describe his methods and machinery, either by writing to the RURAL WORLD or to me, and I will send up all the good points and publish them.

I tried Mr. Root's plan with the churn, but failed. If he can keep the gas from leaking, his plan is best. If the gas does not effect the rubber hose, it is much cheaper and handier than the copper pipe. Will write Mr. Root and let you know if we can improve.

W. L. ANDERSON.

### Coal Oil Barrels.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I have used coal oil barrels for northern cane sirup for ten years. I generally buy them in winter and fill with water, the muddier the better; let them stand a few days, and wash them out with clean water, and use them for hauling and storing maple sap during the season.

When warm weather comes on, put the empty barrels in a dry place out of the weather, and they are always ready in the fall—when soaked up—to be filled with sirup.

It may appear a little singular, but we have used these barrels to store maple sap, without any cleaning whatever. When the sap is boiled down to sirup, there will not be any taste of the oil in the sirup, in any form whatever; and have used the same barrels the next fall, for sirup, with the same success, only soaking them thoroughly before using.

If one has no experience in the use of mud as an absorbent, let him try two or three buckets of this mud in a freshly emptied coal oil barrel, and roll it around until the inside of the barrel is completely covered with it; and leave it so that any surplus moisture will drain out, leaving the mud on the inside as a lining, to get perfectly dry.

Dry earth will disintegrate the scent of a skunk, or any other taste or flavor, and after being washed out, the barrel will be fit for any use.

S. M. T.

Farkersburg, Mo.

### How to Test Sorghum Seed.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Sorghum growers should make no mistakes this year, by planting bad seed. Time is too important, with this crop, to be lost. Every day that can be gained in early ripening, should be secured. To carefully prepare the ground, plant the seed, and wait for it to come up, and then find but little of it germinates, and the work must all be done over, does not put one in the best of humors, especially when he has lost a couple of weeks in the ripening of his crop.

Now that I especially want to learn, is the best way to test seed so as to ascertain just what proportion will grow. Undoubtedly, thousands of RURAL WORLD readers have tested in various ways. Will they please state what methods they have adopted and found most reliable, and thus oblige a

Sorghum Grower.

Sangamon County, Ills.

### Steam Coils, Etc.

H. B., of Lenawee county, Mich., made some inquiry about steam coils. Please allow me to say to him, or any one who may be interested, that I am an earnest worker in cane and cider jelly, have used coils eight years, and I think I can be of some benefit to workers in this line, if they will give me a chance. I fully comprehend the merits of the RURAL WORLD in this branch of industry. The unity of ideas is a sure road to success; and I truly believe that this branch can never be overdone. I therefore think we have not any need to be afraid of one another. So come out. Yours,

W. A. HERRING.

South Allen, Mich.

### Investigation of Sorghum.

The Commissioner of Agriculture makes the following report in regard to sorghum for 1883:

The investigation of the sorghum plant during the past year has been directed to the following lines:

1. The manufacture of sugar from the canes and determination of the yield per ton.

2. Experiments in extracting the juice from the canes by diffusion. These were highly successful. The increased yield of this method over milling has been found to be between 25 and 30 per cent.

3. Experiments in defecation. The most important of these has been the method (used in Europe for sugar) of treating the juice with an excess of lime and afterwards removing this excess by carbonic acid. The results of the experiments have been, in the main, satisfactory. The results have been much better with mill juice, than with juice obtained by diffusion. This process promises to be of so great value to the sugar interest that it is highly important that the experiments be continued on a larger scale next year.

4. Separation of sucrose from molasses by barium, lime and strontium. This has not yet been done, but is an essential part of the plan of the year's work. It will be undertaken at once, when the grinding season of the cane is over.

Enclosed please find \$1.00, my subscription for one year. I have met with a great deal better success in making sorgho sirup since I took the RURAL WORLD. I have the only mill within forty miles around, so you see I am pretty much alone in making it, but I have a good many to help me eat it. Long life to the RURAL WORLD.

J. B. P.

Plattekill, N. Y.

### Planting and Cultivating Sorghum.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: T. J. E., of Fairville, Mo., in referring to my article published in the RURAL WORLD of the 7th of February, thinks I omitted a very important item, that of planting. That is true. Having the land that I grow the first and most important item is, to have it properly prepared, and the seed properly planted, always provided the seed is all right, which it is sure to be, if saved strictly as I stated in that article. That properly done there is no trouble in getting a good crop with suitable cultivation. But with bad planting no amount of subsequent cultivation will make a maximum crop. And the cultivation should be done mostly while the cane is very young.

I have obtained the best results by planting in drills and having the stalks stand about six inches apart. But twelve inches with two in a place does very well. The object with me is to get as large stalks as I can, finding that I get a much better yield of juice from large, than from the same weight of small ones. And I find that I can obtain a much heavier gross weight from the same ground of large, than from small canes. My heaviest yields have been from the old Chinese variety. Planted as above, it is no common occurrence that I get stalks one and a half inches thick, and very seldom one less than three-fourths of an inch. These results are obtained by having the stalks stand apart so that the roots did not get together.

I have generally planted some in checks 3 1/2 by 3 1/2 from two to five stalks to the hill, about two-fifths less number of stalks than in drills. I am satisfied that I can get thirty per cent more from a given quantity of ground in drills, than in hills. And also find that the rows are straight, and if the ground is found to be easier cultivated and kept clean than in hills.

In planting I am governed by circumstances. If it is early or at any time, if it is cool and damp, I plant very shallow, not covering the seed over a half inch, less is better. If later and the ground is thoroughly warmed, I cover a little deeper. In cultivating I find it pays to take a light rake and rake the rows over before the cane comes up, or as it is coming. It takes but little time and forward the growth of the cane, while it keeps the fox-tail and other weeds back. By this method and good subsequent cultivation, you can fetch your cane to as large a growth by the twentieth of June as it ordinarily gets at the middle of July. And it can be planted at that time as the other can at the later date. And it will take care of itself, make a good crop, and mature early. I made a very light rake to rake over the cane rows, simply a piece of pine board, seven inches long, with eight nails for teeth with a very light handle.

My theory for its being easier cultivated and kept clean in drills is, that standing separate in straight rows, the cultivator will cover every weed right up to the stalk, while if it is in hills there will be little left between the stalks. The weeds will grow right in the hill, and a small bunch of foxtail or wild buckwheat in each hill will lessen the yield per acre by many gallons. Nothing will rob the cane of moisture equal to foxtail in the hill, and nothing will so thoroughly retard the circulation of juice as the tender embrace of the wild buckwheat. Now, I think if Mr. Thos. J. E., has such land as he says, and will plant the larger varieties of cane that will mature with him, and will cultivate as I have, and recommend others to do, he will find no trouble in obtaining as good results as I have reported. It will require a little more labor in planting and cultivation on the start, but will be many times repaid in the end. D. J. B.

Jones County, Iowa.

### Practical Experience.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: In the RURAL WORLD of Feb. 14th, is a letter from Joseph Colegate, who writes of Mr. Clark's experience with Mr. McQuiston.

Mr. Clark makes 40 to 45 gallons per day with 3 men and 2 horses, while Mr. McQuiston makes 150 gallons with 2 men and 2 horses. I think Mr. McQuiston said he buried one cord of wood.

Would it not be a good idea for the small operators to give their experience so that we may find out who has the best machinery? I have been in the business for sixteen years. The mill that I have used is the one that I bought from the inventor of this part of the country, brought into this in 1859, and has run every year since. It is a two horse power mill with tumbling roll, and requires one to feed, one to carry cane and take away the bagasse, and a boy to drive; and we use 4 horses, changing them every one or two hours. They will grind enough to make 100 gallons on an average per day.

At first I used a cast iron Cook pan, and it took 2 men to run the pan and one man to wait on customers, seeing to unloading, etc. I worked that way for nine or ten years and made from 75 to 80 gallons per day. I then tried a self skimmer 15 1/2 feet long. I was pleased with it, but did not like the finishing division. I took out the finishing division, and took a 2 foot set-off my cast iron pan and put it to the end of my self-skimming pan, making my pan about 21 feet long. I use the one part for skimming and evaporating, and finish on the other. Two men do the same work now that four did with the old one. With Mr. Colegate I always found a great difference in the juice, with some there was no trouble to make excellent sirup, and some would be very difficult to manage, and when done was not a first class sirup. To overcome this trouble, I put a double flue under the iron part of my pan, that is an upper and a lower flue with a damper, so that I could use as much of the heat or as little as I wished. I found it a very great advantage when I had difficult juice. I am not sure but there is a patent on the damper now, but I have used it a number of years before

the patent that I have reference to was issued. Four horses, four men and a boy, and one cord of wood make 100 gallons of sirup. One man could do all the work at the pan, but I am not in favor of crowding things.

R. A. H.

Linton, Iowa.

### How I Do It.

COL. COLMAN: As Mr. Colegate in the RURAL of the 14th ult., wants to know how I can make 150 gallons of sirup with one cord of wood; and other private letters, how I can crush enough of cane to make 150 gallons in ten hours, I will tell my mode of operation. I use a Pearl No. 4 mill, manufactured by Squiers & Bro. I have a 19-foot lever, and use two horses. I took off the feed guide, and put on a feed table, so constructed as to give all the feed room that it is possible to have, so that the feeder can feed regular, and have from 25 to 30 stalks going through all the time, and we have no trouble in making all the juice we want.

The juice runs from the mill through a pipe, to the bottom of a barrel, which has a second bottom, full of holes, raised about six inches from main bottom, and above that the barrel is filled with straw, and the juice runs out at top of barrel; and runs from there through pipes, into tanks at the evaporator.

Mr. Colegate says, his evaporator is 18 feet long, by 3 feet 4 inches wide, which will give 65 feet of boiling surface. I use 30 feet long by 26 inches wide, which gives me 65 feet of boiling surface. Now, as I need a damper to turn the heat off the back end of my pan, it is evident to me, that with a wide furnace, and an 18-foot evaporator, one-half of the heat must go up the chimney.

I made 4055 gallons last fall, with 25 cords of wood. I use coal-oil to start my fires in the morning, but none for light, as I do all my boiling by daylight.

Some one in the RURAL asked how to clean his pan. I use sulphuric acid, using about a tablespoonful to two foot square, and wash it with a strong broom and in about two minutes put in enough water to make it scrub well, then wash out, and drench with soda water.

THOMAS MCQUISTON.

Preble Co., Ohio.

### Sulphur Fumes.

ED. RURAL WORLD: The two bad years have very much discouraged people here, and there will probably be much less cane planted the present year than before, but I intend to put in some, and want to keep posted as to the best manner of running small works. Who has used sulphur in small horse power works? Can it be used without the fall of 10 feet recommended last fall? Would it do any good to enclose the spout from the mill, and send the sulphur through nothing but a good sized iron pipe, having never seen it or talked with one who had used it, and so my questions may seem simple and crude, but I think there are many of your readers who are as ignorant as myself.

I have been using clay for the past two seasons, and think it a good method. Have seen some very fine sirup made by a neighbor by its use with a different pan from mine. If sulphur would be an improvement, would like to use that also.

J. C. B.

St. Charles, Minn.

We refer to some of our sorghum manufacturers who have had experience with sulphur fumes.

### To Clean Coal Oil Barrels for Sirup.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: In answer to T. J. E., of Fairville, Mo., and W. L. Anderson, of Indiana, who ask the question of cleaning coal oil barrels. First drain out all the oil in the barrel if there should be any left in it. Then dissolve a can of concentrated lye in about 5 or 6 gallons of hot water for each barrel, and put it into the barrel hot. Put in the bung and shake vigorously (it might be better for the novice to keep his eye on the bung). Then let the lye remain in the barrel all day or several hours, at least, and every little while shake up or turn the barrel in a different position; so that the lye will come in contact with different portions of the barrel. Rinse thoroughly with hot water, and drain thoroughly.

J. E. HILLS & SON.

I would like to know where I can get the best two horse cane mill and an evaporator, one that will make about 100 gallons sirup per day of twelve hours. I have been in the business about five years, but my mill was an upright one, and too slow for me, and I sold it. I think I can make it pay yet by getting the right kind of one out. E. H. K.

Flaonia, Texas.

You get the RURAL WORLD every week, and can see the mills and evaporators advertised there. Write the manufacturers, and they will send you their descriptive catalogues.

Will you please to inform me which is the best sorghum mill and evaporator in use? I am a new beginner and want the best improvements, and best value for my money. My sons want to go into the business. Please let me hear from you. J. L.

Makahda, Ills.

You must note what is said in our advertising columns. We cannot discriminate between them. All having mills to sell should advertise them. The demand seems to be greater this season than ever before.

Sickness in my family prevented my shaking with you at Geneva, N. Y. Although the frost killed all our cane here last fall, I am still the largest grower and manufacturer in the county. I stand six feet five inches in my stockings, and tip the beam at 278 lbs. You see, all sweets are not put up in small packages. C. L. H.

Toga Co., Pa.

### Cleaning Coal Oil Barrels.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: In the RURAL WORLD of February 14th, I saw a letter of W. L. Anderson, wanting to know if any readers had used coal oil barrels, and how to clean them. I suppose there are different ways to clean them, and mine may be different from theirs. I take the head out and put it inside the barrel, then drive the hoops on tight, then fill the barrel with water to its overflow, let it set 24 or 36 hours, and pour the water into another barrel, knock the hoops loose, take the head out; their will be a coat of glue all over the inside of the barrel, which will be easily removed with a sharp-edged tool. We use a section of a moving sickle, grind one edge oval, so as to fit the hollow in the stave, scrape the barrel thoroughly in side, bottom and top, wash the barrel with scrub brush, return the head again, before fill the barrel the second time with clean water, let it soak for 24 hours, turn out the water, wash as before, turn the barrel to drain. When dry put in the head, and you have the barrel clean and nice for sirup, and not over forty-five minutes to do the work, and not one cent cost. We have used them four years cleaned in this way, and get perfect satisfaction in every case. We tried burning but did not like it.

Now, Mr. Editor, we have been working in the sorgho interest for six years on small farms. We learn much from the RURAL WORLD, and welcome it every week. We would like to have some good works on sorgho and thermometer, if we knew where to send for them.

We intended to plant twenty acres of cane this season, but there seems to be an over-stock in the market. We have five barrels on hand of a fine quality, and they offer us only 30 to 40 cents per gallon, in trade, and it is as good as we have in our market. Now, for a poor man to work, and pay his expenses in cash, and sell sirup for trade, is there any money in it? We can only make one hundred gallons in ten hours. Do not use any clarifier except hard boiling and careful straining and skimming.

J. B. J.

Taberville, Mo.

### Lime and Chemicals in Sirup.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: In the RURAL of Feb. 7th, 1884, W. L. Anderson, of Indiana, has an article advocating "Chemicals in the Manufacture of Cane Sirup," in which he says that a first-class article of cane sirup cannot be made without the assistance of chemicals. To this, I beg leave to differ with my friend, inasmuch as I have yet to find any one who has a better and healthier article can be made with the aid of chemicals, than is now made without their aid. I have several times competed for premiums at local and State fairs with chemically prepared sirup, and have been so successful that I am a doubting Thomas in regard to the chemically prepared theory of sirup. In fact, there are many things which were considered good before the addition of chemical manipulation; but which now afford a striking example of chemical absurdities for health and usefulness. Then again some find fault with the use of sirup, on account of the excess of matters which they contain, on account of imperfect straining and skimming. And I think our attention should rather be attracted in this direction for success than in the use of chemicals. And where pure cane juice is properly strained (thoroughly) and skimmed while boiling, we are able to make as good an article of cane sirup as any one possibly can.

W. S.

Boling, Kansas.

### To Clean Coal Oil Barrels.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: In the RURAL WORLD of the 14th of February, Mr. W. L. Anderson says that coal oil barrels were the cheapest and best barrels that can be bought for sirup, provided they could be cleaned out suitable for sirup without too much cost.

I have yet to find any one who cleans my coal oil barrels. I take them to a mill still or a steam saw mill, and let the steam from the exhaust pipe run in through the bung for about 10 or 15 minutes, which cleans them out thoroughly, and I have never seen a barrel with the head of the barrel, or it will burst it. I have to pay 15 cents per barrel to clean them. I have used them for the last six years for sirup, cider and vinegar. I put the sirup in cold.

Three Rivers, Mich.

### Sorghum Cane as Forage.

My experience proves that sorghum cane possesses great value as forage. I have fed it to horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and consider the results equally favorable with those gained from the use of corn fodder in past seasons. I have used the amber, for I consider it the sweetest variety. A member of the State Wool Growers' Association, who winters large numbers of sheep, recently gave his experience. He found that fifty acres of sorghum, drilled in about a peck to the acre, being careful not to get it too thick, and cutting up one-half to feed in stormy weather, would carry about one thousand sheep through the winter. He used Minnesota amber and orange seed.

John White, Ellsworth County, Kan.

Please tell the correspondent who wanted a centrifugal, that we have one that is all right, but too small for us.

J. E. DUTCHER,

Linwood, Iowa.

### As Fair as Italy's Fairest.

The romantic village of Florence possesses natural beauties that are unsurpassed. The far-famed Mt. Holyoke and picturesque Mt. Tom in sublime majesty tower above and cast their shadows over the pleasant vale with its Mill River, the wild, rippling stream, its source of power for the great Corticelli Silk Mills and various other important industries. From the hill-tops of Florence can be viewed the noble Connecticut, whose broad waters, clear as crystal, flow on to the sea.—Post-Dispatch.

## Agricultural.

### Congratulations From the South.

GOV. COLMAN: I rejoice to congratulate you on the growth of your valuable paper. It was "all of a sudden," but it is a good thing.

It is due the RURAL WORLD to say, that of the many—too many—papers for which I have for the past decade, written about Southern affairs, none have been more valuable in awakening an interest in the South. I believe I should not overstate it, were I to say that no letters of mine bring so many letters enquiring as to the South, as those appearing in your journal. This is high praise, but it is true. First and last, I have solicited the columns of almost every agricultural journal in the North and West with my communications on one topic or another. Time was, when few would speak for the South, and there really was not very much to say of progress and outlook. Now, that a paper is not considered a newsworthy one, unless it notes and assists the "boom" at the South, this should be considered. Having written so much and so long about the possibilities of the South in so many journals, I can tell easily the paper that awakens most interest by that sure test—the number of enquiries from correspondents. As I said, your paper leads them all. Whatever this may mean in the way of circulation and influence or not, it certainly means that for those who are interested in what the writer says, your columns are the best medium.

I think the South owes you a debt of gratitude. I know I do. All I can do is wish you a hearty God-speed, and bring your hand mentally in cordial congratulation.

W. B. HILLIER.

New Orleans, La.

### The Effects of Drainage.

The effects of drainage upon the soil is very plain, as above illustrated. The roots of the plant in the undrained soil are confined near the surface, cut off by the water line, the plant yellows and dwarfs. The roots of the plant in the drained soil run down, and spread out in search of supplies, hence the vigorous growth.

That a deep soil is better than a shallow one, is well known to every observing farmer. We say of certain fields "the soil is thin," by which we mean that the field has a shallow soil; the water may be so near the surface that the roots of the growing crops have a shallow feeding ground, for the roots of our crops will not grow in the water. Then a deep soil is better than a shallow one because the roots descend much deeper for plant food.

In reference to clay soils as we drain, the depth of active soil as deep as we drain. Corn roots have been found at the depth of eight feet and wheat roots at the depth of five feet.

A drained soil becomes a great laboratory in which is prepared the necessary supply of food for the growing crop down as deep as the tile are laid. The water passing down through the pores to the drain below, is followed by the air freighted with fertilizing elements, which are absorbed by the soil, which the roots, following down through the same spaces, take up.

An instance from the practical side of this question will better present the importance of this agricultural improvement perhaps.

Mr. Townsend, of Columbus, O., drained a field of retentive clay soil so two rods apart to the average depth of three and a half feet, on which, before drainage, he had a usual yield of 46 bushels.

The latter crop he sold at \$1 per bushel, paying the entire expense of draining, and leaving a balance beside in the purse's pocket.

Soils underlaid with clay, if underdrained, will average fully one-third increase of products, in many instances more than double the product, and in some instances it insures an abundant yield where little if anything was grown before.

For further particulars on this important subject, write to S. Mitchell & Son, 20 South Eleventh St., St. Louis, Mo., who will, on application, send a descriptive circular free.

### How to Clean Stump Lands.

A correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator tells how he gets rid of stumps as follows: "Last spring I sent to Indiana and hired a man to come and blast out stumps. I paid \$2 1/2 cents per pound for the powder and 15 cents for each stump taken out, he to furnish caps and fuse. The stumps were mostly white and burr oak, from twenty to forty inches in diameter, and had been cut from six to twelve years. Sixty-seven of the worst were taken out at an expense of 63 cents per stump. There were only three or four wheres in the whole lot. As they were blown into pieces it was much less work to pile and burn them than when taken out in the ordinary way. I bought material and took out nearly two hundred smaller stumps at an expense of about 20 cents each. It took me about ten or fifteen minutes to prepare a blast. I used a two-inch auger on a five-foot shaft for boring under the stump. A crowbar will do in soft ground. Those who follow the business use a two and a half inch auger. The charge should be

put as nearly under the centre of the stump as possible. It is not very dangerous to use, as fire will not explode. The cap is placed in the cartridge and is connected by fuse. You light the fuse, which in one or two











# COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD.

## THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR.

### BY NORMAN J. COLMAN.

#### PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

# ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

ADVERTISING: 40 cents per line of space; 10 cents on large or long time advertisements.

Address NORMAN J. COLMAN, Publisher, 600 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.

Advertisements will find the RURAL WORLD one of the best advertising mediums of its class in the country. This is the uniform testimony of all who have given it a trial. Many of our largest advertising patrons have used it for more than a quarter of a century, which is the highest possible recommendation of its value as an advertising medium.

**ADDRESSES.**

Norman J. Colman has accepted invitations to deliver addresses at the following places and times:

BROWNVILLE, Salline Co., Mo., March 15th, on the Dairy and Creamery Industry.

SEDALIA, Mo., Wednesday, April 2nd, before the Missouri Short-horn Breeders' Association on Breeding Practical Short-horn Cattle.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Thursday, April 3d, before the Missouri Wool Growers' Association.

OMAHA, Nebraska, Sep. 5th, Annual Address at the Nebraska State Fair.

**INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE NURSERYMEN'S MEETING.**

COL. COLMAN: I am requested by a number of the members of the American Association of Nurserymen, to invite you to deliver an address on "The Influence of Horticulture on Farm Life" at our coming meeting, in Chicago, in June, and hope you will find it convenient to accept and be present.

Yours respectfully, M. A. HUNT, Chicago, March 4, 1884. President.

REPLY: The invitation is accepted, and it will give me great pleasure to be present at the meeting—for we know it will be a good one.

**READERS OF THE RURAL WORLD** should not hesitate when they see advertisements that interest them, to send for circulars that are sent free to all inquirers. Advertisers desire to present the merits of what they advertise to the great public, and a vast amount of valuable information is to be gained by reading circulars that are sent out. A dollar spent for postal cards to send for circulars is well spent, and will bring information worth many times the cost of the postal card. We are always pleased to have our advertisers say they saw the advertisements in the RURAL WORLD.

One of the good results arising from the very severe winter passing away, is the immense ice crop that has been harvested at small figures. The leading operator in ice in this city informed the writer a few days ago, that there was so much ice put away that he would be exceedingly gratified if he could succeed in holding his own the next twelve months.

SUGAR has tumbled down in price to an alarming extent. One of the most extensive buyers in St. Louis informs us that clarified sugar is selling at eight cents per pound, the lowest figure it ever reached. He adds that unless the refineries come to the rescue, the price will continue to fall. The price of sugar is higher figures, some of them will be necessarily compelled to retire from the business, to permit the remainder to live.

**STOCKMEN** in Kansas, especially in the southern portion of the State, are becoming very much alarmed at present over the spread of the foot and mouth disease among cattle at many points, where a large number of them are exposed to it. A State meeting has been called to convene at Emporia on the 11th of March to consider the matter, and invoke the aid of the Legislature or the Governor of the State in checking or suppressing the disease by quarantining the affected districts. At another meeting elsewhere, Congress is asked to stamp out the disease, and the whole country is interested in eradicating it. Dr. Trumbull, detailed by the National Agricultural Department, has discovered the mouth and foot disease among cattle near Yates Centre, Woodson county. Dr. Holcomb, veterinary surgeon for the army at Ft. Leavenworth, in Neosho county, examining the disease among the cattle here. At Osage, a meeting of cattle men was held on the 8th, which adopted a resolution requesting Governor Glick to call a meeting of the Legislature to take action on the matter.

WHAT a change has come over us since the time when cotton was king, and held his throne undisputed for years. What a series of revolutions have accompanied the general revolution during which cotton steadily declined in value and importance to the producing classes, until it is now one of the last in the list of farm products. The average cotton product of the past few years was 6,000,000 bales at a value of \$40,000,000; at the present time, giving us \$240,000,000 as the gross value of the staple. Now experts in the chicken and egg business show us what millions are involved in this insignificant industry, and what it yields the producers. New York City alone spends annually for chickens and eggs over \$40,000,000, and the other cities and towns of the country pay out upwards of two hundred millions for the same articles. Thus, we find that cotton, once king, has become one of the least important staples, and the chicken and egg industry has become one of the most profitable crops now cultivated in the South, and no longer offers an inviting field to labor or capital.

At a meeting of the American Cattle and Horse Association, held at the Sherman House, Chicago, March 5th, 1884, the following officers were elected, viz.: President, T. L. Miller, Beecher, Ill.; Vice-Presidents, John C. Snell, Edmondton, Ont.; Charles P. Mattocks, Portland, Me.; Charles A. DeGraaf, Janesville, Minn.; Secretary and Treasurer, George Harding, Waukesha, Wis. Board of Directors, Samuel E. Prather, Sherman, Ill.; Charles F. Mills, Springfield, Ill.; T. L. Miller, Beecher, Ill.; George Harding, Waukesha, Wis.; Chas. P. Willard, Chicago, Ill.

The principal change in the list of officers, is the election of Mr. George Harding, secretary and treasurer, in place of Mr. Willard, resigned. The new secretary is a gentleman well known in his State, being the largest breeder of Cotswold sheep in the State of Wisconsin, and the work of the Association will in his hands receive the care and attention which it has needed for some time past.

The work of issuing the next volume of the Record will be proceeded with at once, and the new secretary will furnish all necessary blanks on application.

The leading grain operators, receivers and sellers no longer recognize the slow and uncertain method practiced heretofore in securing shipments or consignments. Now, they send their agents in to every neighborhood where there is any grain, and buy outright, paying usually more than the holder can get by sending on commission. The producer or seller, in this way, gets paid for every pound he has, and avoids the loss arising through leakages, as well as the expenses attached to selling away from home. It also brings to his door a wholesale market, and the producer has a combination that may exist among local buyers. It secures him, in a word, the very highest figures, the market affords, and leaves him not so much at the mercy of local operators, as he was formerly.

The farmer who is prepared, and can afford to wait, and avail himself of these opportunities—the man who is not in debt—is in a position to make his products yield more than they ever did before.

H. M. KELLY, a well-known correspondent of the RURAL WORLD, of Montgomery County, Ill., was in our office on Tuesday last, on his way home from the South, where he had been looking for a new home for himself and family. The cold weather of this winter has made him, with his advancing years, think of looking around for a warmer nest than he can find in his own State.

He had been no farther south than Judsonia, Arkansas, whither he had gone to look into the condition of the fruit crop prospects for the ensuing year. He reports that for at least a hundred and twenty-five miles south of the Missouri line, the prospects for a full crop of plums, apples and strawberries are good, whilst the cherries and the peaches are very badly used up by frost over the entire region. The winter generally was severe on account of the cold, but some few peas and other of the hardiest vegetables, had been planted.

Grass was poor and the cattle too, for the winter has been cold even there, and the fodder and feed pretty much used up. As a farming country for men of the north, Mr. Kelly says the country looked poor (as an agricultural country). Men of the north would perhaps do much more with the same soil, but the men of Arkansas will look up with an infusion of northern blood and make much more, both of their soil and climate.

The fruit business is largely on the increase and seems to pay well to those who attend to it with brain and muscle, but as with any other business, it requires a certain amount of capital. A dollar spent for postal cards to send for circulars is well spent, and will bring information worth many times the cost of the postal card. We are always pleased to have our advertisers say they saw the advertisements in the RURAL WORLD.

One trouble is, cotton is king, and a very tyrannical king too. As the price of cotton has fallen, and the stock generally looks as if about ready to shove off. Yearling calves, \$4 to \$6, two-year-olds \$8 to \$9 etc., too much cotton the principal cause.

**GOOD STREETS.**

Good roads is a subject in which farmers are more interested than good streets, but many of them are, at times at least, interested in the latter as well; particularly when after a long drive they get into town and find themselves stalled in mud, and the mud is so deep that they have to wade through it. The mud is so deep that they have to wade through it. The mud is so deep that they have to wade through it.

On a late visit, we found this all transformed into good pavement, the mud and the bulk of the dust all gone, and seven miles of most excellent streets over which all seasons of the year a loaded team may pass as easily as over an oak floor. The change is indeed wonderful, and all visitors to the capital city of that great State, who have seen it in days past will on their next visit be very agreeably surprised.

It was not done, however, until an old law was beyond the levying of municipal taxes beyond a certain per cent had been removed from the statute books and a new one formulated and adopted more in keeping with the necessities of a city of its class to-day.

THE stone was removed to the proper depth and the surface graded. This surface was covered with a light bed of sand, and it with two thin layers of planks, and to make the crown bed, cedar blocks seven inches long were placed, and tightly and mechanically packed together, costing the contractor \$1.35 per square yard for all the work.

This, it will readily be seen, makes a solid, clean, good road and without mud, or even dust, unless the ordinary wear of the surface which is as easily swept as an ordinary floor, and good management of an old St. Louisian, John McCreery, who for two or three consecutive years was elected mayor of the city, and largely interested in its welfare.

It requires now the planting of shade trees on many of its principal streets, and the completion of the capitol to make of it a model city and a desirable one to live in.

comes of them, remains one of the unexplained mysteries. There is a volume of information in the foregoing for the young men on the farm, who are dissatisfied with their lot in life, and we commend it to their careful consideration.

**CREAMERIES.**

There are many places throughout the country where creameries are started, but those who want them do not exactly know how to go to work to have them erected. We shall be happy to assist in any efforts to establish creameries anywhere, and, if those who want them will notify us, we will do what we can to aid in their erection. Write to us and we will give further particulars.

**COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD.**

The Nashville American pays the following high compliment to our journal: "Colman's RURAL WORLD, published at St. Louis, is a journal of considerable interest. It is in respect one of the very best agricultural papers of the country. Those of our Tennessee farmers who have their attention attracted to sorghum culture would do well to subscribe to the RURAL WORLD, as it is standard authority on that subject. It costs but a dollar a year. Address Norman J. Colman, 600 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo."

**LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO FORESTRY.**

COL. COLMAN: After looking over the ground and consulting Commissioner of Agriculture, the "Call of the State" committee on Legislation" appointed at our Kansas City meeting of the Mississippi Valley Horticultural Society—consisting of yourself and eight others—to meet at the Agricultural Department Building in this city on Monday, 19th inst. The American Forestry Congress convenes at same time and place, and it is thought we can aid each other. Truly yours,

J. STERLING MORTON.

Washington, D. C., March 5, 1884.

**WHAT THEY SAY OF FARMERS.**

It is said: That the farmer subsisteth himself upon his own produce, and lambs and chickens, and regaleth himself with the fragrance of new-mown hay, and the aroma of his horse stables. That he rideth a sulky plow and reaper, instead of stumbling over the clouds of dust and mud, and that he is clothed in the best of materials, and that he is without fear of molestation or abuse. That he riseth early betimes, and sitteth up late, that he may fill his barns and store-houses with plenty, and subscribes for some good weekly paper, and pays for it, that he may store up his knowledge, and be a man of culture and wealth, he doth not molest or abuse. That he riseth early betimes, and sitteth up late, that he may fill his barns and store-houses with plenty, and subscribes for some good weekly paper, and pays for it, that he may store up his knowledge, and be a man of culture and wealth, he doth not molest or abuse.

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**Notes—Correspondence.**

—Charles Galle of Columbia, Mo., asks us to tell J. D. W. of Huntsville, Mo., that if he will write to him he will tell him all about Hay Presses.

—Will some of your readers posted in such matters, please inform me through the RURAL WORLD, whether by dissolving bones in ashes, I would destroy the phosphorus in them. —A. S. Eureka Springs, Ark.

The Rev. Dr. H. Heber Newton, whose criticisms of the Bible have produced so great a commotion in the religious world, is preparing an elaborate defense of his position for the April number of the North American Review.

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—Will the RURAL WORLD tell me whether orchard grass seed will grow on rocky land, and if so when is the best time to sow the seed, and where can one get the seed, and what is the price?—L. Brunner, Dallas Co., Mo.

—REPLY: Orchard grass will grow on rocky or rocky land as well as any other grass. Of course there must be soil enough to get a catch. Spring is the usual time to sow the seed, though fall is just as good a season to sow it. The seed can be obtained at any seed store in St. Louis. Write for prices. It is a very valuable grass, and should be more extensively planted.

—The Stowbridge Sower, manufactured by the Ralston Seed Co., is one of the new machines for sowing seed. It is a combination of the best features of the best sowing machines in America, and it is a machine that has never been brought to the notice of the farming world, and it is only a wonder that such a sower has not been made of a successful long ago. C. W. Dorr, the Seedsman, of Des Moines, Iowa, is now putting this sower into the hands of the farmers of Iowa, and he reports that they are meeting with general approval for the using them. It will pay any farmer to send to him for the Illustrated Catalogue of this implement, which is mailed free to any address.

—I see that W. E. Nesbit, Shelby, Iowa, wished to know what lands and farms could be bought at, in southern Iowa. It is one of the best places for lands and farms in this (Camden) and Pulaski counties. Improved land can be bought from \$5.00 to \$12.00 per acre, and as much wild pasture land as you want from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per acre. This is a fine stock country—fine summer ranges, supplied with abundance of good running water, and the best of dairy farms, and there are anywhere I expect, are to be found here, though there is nothing of the kind in this part of the country. Question: I want the experience of some farmers with the Johnson grass, and where and what the seed can be bought at? What it weighs per bushel and how much is required per acre.—John S. Dorr, Camden, Pulaski Co., Mo.

With the Johnson grass we have no experience, but hear from the South they have great trouble to get rid of it when once located.

—The attention of our readers is called to the vast system of railroads now operated and controlled by the Pennsylvania company. We refer particularly to the lines west of Pittsburgh, or more properly speaking, west of the great Pennsylvania railroad, which stands by itself, a monument of what can be done in this country as regards railroads. This system covers a very large territory, and probably reaches more large and important cities than any other system of railroads in existence. Their principal lines reaching out from St. Louis, Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie, Indianapolis, Louisville and Cincinnati, and the great Ohio river, and the immense volume of business turned over to and received from the Pennsylvania railroad proper. One trip over any of these trunk lines, and especially the one via St. Louis, starting out from that city by the Vandalia Line, will convince the most fastidious that there are no lines where all the facilities for the passenger and freight service are so well combined as those of the Pennsylvania system. The Pullman Hotel Cars and Pullman Buffet Sleeping Cars, which leave St. Louis Union station every morning and evening, Sundays included, are models of perfection, and the inner man is sure of good care whenever located in them. These cars go through New York without change.—Kansas City Journal, January 4th, 1884.

—Wishing to change my business from general farming, I wish to ask you a few questions: 1st. What would a farm of from 20 to 40 acres of land, suitable for small fruit, vegetables, orchard already in bearing, with suitable house, etc., cost; say, from 25 to 30 miles west of St. Louis, on or near a railroad? 2nd. Do small fruits do well in that latitude? 3rd. Do you have any other fruit? 4th. Does poultry-raising pay well if properly managed? 5th. How about the health—do you have lung complaints, also malarial troubles? If you will please to answer the above questions through your paper, and to any one having such a place would be glad to hear from you. My crops in Iowa are very abundant. Corn extra good. It is feared that the fruit is badly damaged. We have had very cold weather for this country this winter. We are now having a very cold time. The sorghum business was not a success in this part of the country, owing to a want of skilled labor, and of capacity and means to work it up.—B. Buckman, Elk City, Kansas.....Such a place would probably cost you from \$1,600 to \$4,000, depending upon improvements. Small fruits, bees and poultry do well—but to succeed in anything, one must understand the business he is following, and give his children by the way, and the parents would pay, if one gave it his constant study and attention. It is generally healthy about St.

Louis—the country being rolling and hilly land.

—As I have read the RURAL WORLD week after week, I have become interested in the letters from Southwest Missouri. As I wish to learn more of the customs of that part of the State, would like the address of R. M. Bell, if agreeable to him. We have had a favorable winter for sheep in this part of Iowa, and they are looking well, but would much prefer a timbered country. With many thanks for the favors of S. Jewett and others, I remain respectfully yours, E. L. Jewett, Giddens, Iowa.....By referring to our Breeder's Directory, you will see the card of J. Bell & Son, Sumnerville, Mo. breeders of pure Spanish Merino sheep. R. M. Bell is the son of that firm. Write to him and he will give you the Southwest Missouri letter. The objection to his location is that it is forty miles away from a railroad leading to St. Louis. Land is cheap, the location is healthy, crops do well, but it is too remote







## The Home Circle.

### MARY'S PRAYER.

In the nursery chamber,  
At the close of day,  
Little white-robed Katie,  
Kneels her prayers to say.  
"Jesus, tender shepherd,  
Softly she has said;  
Adding, 'Now I lay me,  
Slept she bows her head;—

"Jesus, I am lonely  
Now little cradle's dead,  
And I want a sister;  
Thus the sweet voice plead—  
"Jangle off plays with me,  
But he pulls my curls,  
And Wilbur says that boys  
Were not made to play with girls.

"To-morrow-day is Christmas;  
Dear Jesus, if you please,  
Just ask dear, good, old Santa—  
I know I mustn't tease—  
But if a baby sister  
He has among his boys,  
To put her in my stocking—  
Be sure, not any boys!"

She slept, and all the air  
Seemed full of baby faces,  
Now near, now far they float,  
With fairy forms and faces;  
Each had so many charms,  
She knew not which to choose;  
Blue eyes, and black, and brown—  
How could she one refuse.

Kind Santa saw her trouble,  
And from the lovely throng,  
A blue-eyed, fair-haired darling  
He gently waits along.  
"How like my dear, dear Grace!  
Oh, please that one give me!"  
And then he smiled and told her,  
"Your sister she shall be."

With outstretched arms to clasp her  
She sprang, when lo, she woke  
To find herself enfolded  
In papa's arms; nor spoke  
Until he softly showed her  
In nurse's lap, I when  
The very blue and darling,  
She in her dream had seen.

"You precious little darling!"  
She cried with voice of glee;  
"You never, never'd been here,  
If it hadn't been for me!"

From Idyll.  
I seize upon this, my earliest leisure,  
To offer my hearty congratulations to our  
editor on the good old RURAL. Also  
to thank him for throwing open the door  
of the Home Circle for our admiring  
inspection of the new quarters. In return  
for this marked kindness on his part, we  
should endeavor to contribute the best  
and most interesting corner of the whole  
establishment. Having also visited every  
other department this week, I find  
each and all evidencing the same inten-  
tions at headquarters, to make for us a  
"better than the best" of journals. I am  
glad to see the sign of prosperity, and  
am sure its popularity is well deserved  
by our RURAL.

Now, let us all quit quarrelling and  
complimenting, and settle down to "busi-  
ness." And I want to say, in this con-  
nection, that some kind friends, to my  
astonishment, is so good as to have sent  
me, every other week, as published, the  
numbers of the Standard Library, pub-  
lished in New York City. The books  
are all by standard authors, and excel-  
lent reading, and I highly appreciate the  
favor, and wish I knew to whom thanks  
are due. If to any member of our  
"Circle," let this testify my gratitude.

In conclusion, though not wishing to  
create an envious feeling, I must tell you  
that I had recently the pleasure of shak-  
ing hands with the Home Circle editor,  
and he kissed the baby! IDYLL.

Home.  
PART II.—BY WALNUT.  
The following thoughts on "Home Affec-  
tion," by H. C. Dane, are as true as  
they are good, and are well worthy of  
being read aloud weekly, in every home  
circle, and in every school room:

"Affection does not begot weakness,  
nor does it effeminate for a brother to be  
tenderly attached to his sister, and spend  
an evening with them, and we will tell  
you their home education."

The young man who was accustomed  
to kiss his sweet, innocent, loving sister,  
night and morning as they met, shows his  
tenderness upon him, and he will never  
forget it, and when he shall take  
some one to his heart as his wife, she  
shall reap the golden fruit thereof. The  
young man who was in the habit of giv-  
ing his arm to his sister as they walked  
to and from church, will never leave  
his wife to find her way as best she can.

Mothers and daughters, wives and sis-  
ters, remember this, and remember that  
you have the making of the future of this  
great country, and rise at once to your  
high and holy duty. We are all what  
you make us. Ah! throw away your  
weakening follies of fashion and soul-  
famine, and rise to the level where God  
intended you should be, and make every  
one of your homes, from this day, schools  
of true politeness and tender affection.

Take those little curly-headed boys, and  
teach them all you would have men to be,  
and my word for it, they will be just  
such men, and crown you with a glory such  
as queens and empresses never dreamed  
of. Wield your power now, and you  
shall reap the fruit in your ripe age."

Here is a sad, sad fact for our girls  
and young women to consider. It is all  
too true. Let them think and ponder  
deeply, seriously, wisely, over these  
words by Mary E. Lathrop:—"The pastor  
of a church in one of our large cities  
told me not long ago: 'I have officiated  
at forty weddings since I came  
here, and in every case save one, I felt  
that the bride was bringing an awful  
risk.' Young men of bad habits and  
last tendencies never marry girls of their  
own sort, but demand a wife above sus-  
picion. So pure, sweet women, kept  
from the touch of evil through the years  
of their girlhood, give themselves, with  
all their costly dower of womanhood,  
into the keeping of men, who, in base

associations, have learned to undervalue  
all that belongs to them.

"There is but one way out of this that  
I can see, and that is for you—the young  
women of the country to require in asso-  
ciation and marriage, purity for purity,  
sobriety for sobriety, and honor for  
honor. There is no reason why the  
young men of this christian land should  
not be just as virtuous as its young  
women, and if the loss of your society  
and love be the price they are forced to  
pay for it they will not pay it. I admit  
with sadness that not all of our young  
women are capable of this high standard  
for themselves or others; too often from  
the hand of reckless beauty has the  
temptation to drink come to men; but,  
I believe there are enough of earnest,  
thoughtful girls in the society of our  
country to work wonders in the temperance  
reform, if fully aroused. Dear girls,  
will you help us in the name of Christ?  
Will you, first of all, be so true to your-  
selves and God, so pure in your inner  
and outer life, that you shall have a right  
to ask that the young man with whom  
you associate, and especially those you  
marry, shall be the same?"

G. L. Banks contributes a good poem,  
called, "What I Live For." I give the  
last stanza only, and it expresses my  
sentiments truly:

"I live for those who love me,  
For those who know me true,  
For the heaven that smiles above me;  
And awaits my spirit too;  
For the wrong that needs resistance,  
For the future that lacks assistance,  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that I can do."

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts,  
not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by heart-throbs. He  
most lives,  
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the  
best."

Mrs. Burr tells thus about "Smiles,"  
how they light up the home with happi-  
ness. "If people will only notice, they  
will be amazed to find how much a really  
enjoyable evening owes to smiles. But  
few consider what an important symbol  
of fine intellect and fine feeling they are.  
They are smiles, after childhood, are things  
of education. Savages do not smile;  
coarse, brutal, cruel men may laugh, but  
they seldom smile. The affluence, the  
benediction, the radiance, which, 'fills  
the silence like a speech, is the smile of  
a full appreciative heart.'"

"The face that grows dimmer as it listens,  
and then breaks into sunshine instead of  
words, has a subtle, charming influence,  
universally felt, though very seldom un-  
derstood or acknowledged. Personal  
and sarcastic remarks show not only  
a bad heart and a bad head, but bad taste  
also."

"Polished manners have often made a  
sacredness successful, while the best of  
men, by their hardness and coarseness,  
have done themselves incalculable in-  
jury; the shell being so rough that the  
pearl could not be seen, and the precious  
kernel within. Civility is to a man  
what beauty is to a woman. It creates  
an instantaneous impression in his be-  
half, while the opposite quality excites  
as quick a prejudice against him. It is a  
social ornament, the most beautiful dress  
that man or woman can wear, and more  
valuable, as a means of winning favor, than  
the finest cloths and jewels ever worn."

The gruffest man loves to be appre-  
ciated, and it is often the sweet smile  
of a woman, which we think intended for  
us alone, than a pair of June-like eyes,  
or "lips that seem as roses fed," that be-  
witches our heart, and lays us at the feet  
of her whom we afterwards marry."

Anonymous.  
"Eve was made of a rib out of the side  
of Adam—not made out of his head, to  
rule over him, nor out of his feet to be  
trampled upon by him, but out of his  
side, to be equal with him, under his arm,  
to be protected by him, and near his  
heart, to be beloved.—Matthew Henry.

The good are made by us;  
As odors crushed, are sweeter still!  
S. Rogers.  
"They are never alone that are accom-  
panied with noble thought."—Sir Philip  
Sidney.

"If you are in any trouble or quandary,  
tell your wife that is, if you have one,  
all about it, at once. Ten to one her in-  
vention will solve your difficulty, sooner  
than all your logic. The wit of woman  
has been praised, but her instincts are  
quicker and keener than her reason.  
Counsel with your wife or mother, or  
sister, and be assured, light will flash up  
on your darkness. Women are too com-  
monly adjudged as verdant in all but  
purely womanish affairs. Their intui-  
tion, or insights, are the most subtle.  
In counseling a man to tell his wife, we  
would go further, and advise him to keep  
none of his affairs a secret from her.  
Many a home has been happily saved,  
and many a fortune retrieved, by a man's  
full confidence in his 'better-half.'"  
Woman is far more a seer and prophet  
than man, if she be given a fair chance.

We are certain that no man succeeds  
so well in the world as he who, having  
taken a partner for life, makes her the  
partner of his purposes and hopes. What  
is wrong of his impulse or judgment, she  
will check him, and get right with her  
universally right instincts. "Help-  
meet," was no insignificant title as ap-  
plied to man's companion. She is a  
help-meet to him in every darkness, dif-  
ficulty and sorrow of life. And what  
she most craves and most deserves is con-  
fidence—without which, love is never  
free from a shadow.—Pacific Rural Press.

How peculiarly beautiful is this defini-  
tion of Home, by Charles Swain:  
"Home is not merely four square walls,  
Though with pictures hung and gilded;  
Home is where affection calls,  
Filled with shrines the heart hath builded;  
Home is where the father doth love,  
Sailing 'neath the heaven above;  
Home is where there's one to love!  
Home is where there's one to love us!"

What is home with none to meet,  
None to welcome, none to greet?  
Home is sweet,—and only sweet—  
When there's one we love to meet us!

"Home! sweet, sweet home!  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like  
home!"  
Home Again.

Yes, dear friends, I am at home again.  
Home is one of the sweetest words in my  
vocabulary.  
My home is only a prairie home, and  
quite humble.

"The house to me may lowly be,  
If I but like the people in it."  
I've been here two weeks, and very  
much enjoy meeting old friends and  
neighbors, to say nothing of my delight  
on meeting the dear ones of home. I am  
too busy to inflict a long letter. I would  
like to know how many of our Circle are  
members of the C. L. S. O. Having no  
hope of becoming a graduate in any  
other way, I became a member of said  
Circle.

The letter to "Friendless" is most  
excellent. Come again soon and often,  
dear sorrowing sister, but remember you  
will not be friendless here. We have  
felt the pressure of the heavy hand of  
sorrow, and can sympathize with others.  
I can not express all the sympathy I feel  
for bleeding hearts. How glad I would  
be if I could say aught that would send  
a ray of light into your weary heart.

"Hearts that are richest are those that have  
wept,"  
Mabel's grief, long ago.  
Like our beloved Idyll, you can help  
others by your heartfelt sympathy.  
Your Savior brought himself nearer to  
suffering mortals by suffering like unto  
us. Your darling that he has taken  
unto himself, can not come to you, but  
you can go to him and find him pure as  
when entrusted to your care.

That poem from your scrap-book,  
Fred, is grand. Who does not agree  
with John Sheffield, that  
"No writing lifts exalted men so high  
As sacred and soul-moving poetry;  
No kind of work requires so nice a touch,  
And if well finished, nothing shines so much."

I received an interesting letter a short  
time ago from one of my adopted broth-  
ers, an orphan, who is victim to that  
dread disease consumption. In October  
he left Kansas, for a journey South, and  
on the way visited St. Louis, Indianapolis,  
and Cincinnati, went through the  
Mammoth Cave, stopped in Nashville  
and visited Frower, Folsom's tomb and  
former residence, the State House, and  
Vanderbilt and Fisk Universities. At  
Chattanooga he saw Lookout Mountain  
and Missionary Ridge. He was through  
the National Cemetery, where 13,000  
soldiers are buried. He wrote from  
Ringgold, Ga., six miles from the Chick-  
amauga battle-field, and on the line of  
Sherman's "March to the Sea." That  
year was Grant's headquarters 20 years  
ago this winter. Our army burned the  
plank and 400 of our brave boys were  
killed in the street. My friend is grate-  
ful for the kindness of the people there,  
and thinks of going on to Florida. How  
I would enjoy such a trip over historical  
ground. A full description of the jour-  
ney would give me great pleasure.

Joshua, when you settle in Northwest  
Missouri, let us hear from you. We are  
talking of removing thither, but I would  
like a description of the country before  
deciding to make the change.  
I wish to answer your letter soon, Val-  
lie, and will enclose photo, but you must  
remember to find that good artist soon.  
Come often, Fanny, I like your non-  
sense. Did dull care never cast his  
shadow near your pathway? May you  
always be happy and bring us many  
glances of sunshine.  
Your dream, May Myrtle, is so sad.  
How many lives it resembles!  
Here is my hand, Tom, since you are a  
genuine Schoolman. Let them call you  
Tom-boy if they wish. I wish merry  
round makes the best woman. The more  
romping the less moping. Come over,  
and let's farm this summer.  
Ruskin says: "To watch the corn  
grow and the blossoms set, to draw hard  
breath, to plow, to share and spade; to  
think, to think, to hope, to pray, these  
are the things which make man  
happy." And so says  
SCHOOLMA'AM.

Feb. 22, 1884.  
Letter From Bess.  
As poetry seems to be popular with  
the Circle, and somewhat "ketching,"  
I concluded to try it too, so having a  
little spare time, the most beautiful dress  
when the head of the establishment and  
the book-keeper and most of the clerks  
were gone to dinner, I sought an in-  
spiration. My muse was rather blue and  
depressed, and after deep and profound  
study evolved the following:  
A little snow, a little sleet,  
A little time to sleigh;  
A little slush, a little mush  
So runs the world away.  
I was on the trail of the next verse,  
and had got  
when Chips, our youngest clerk observed,  
"Look, Miss Bess, at all the stamps  
looked on to-day!" Though absorbed  
in my more elevating occupation, I re-  
sponded politely, "What a much!"  
Chips always comprehends my expres-  
sions, though our elegant book-keeper  
says my language is often unique, not to  
say occasionally opaque; and he replied  
promptly "Bet your boots it's an awful  
big much."  
I went back to my muse, or tried to,  
but she had taken her leave in high dis-  
dignity and I was left in the lurch.  
The 22nd of February, but somehow  
"Birthright's Washday" didn't seem to  
have the proper influence over the muse,  
or indeed, anybody about the office, since  
only the elevator got a holiday, and we  
poor creatures had to toil upstairs in  
bitterness of spirit. I made no head  
of the establishment cross, and when he  
couldn't find his gold pen, there was a  
general row. Of course every one vowed  
ignorance on the subject; but I fear sus-  
picion rather pointed at Bess, who is  
supposed to have an especial facility for  
losing pens and pencils.  
"It's odd my pen can't be let alone,"  
said Mr. T., sternly; and in vain the  
clerks flew around, the book-keeper fell  
over the letter-press in his flurry, and  
the office boy turned the waste basket  
upside down—all vain. He gave it up  
and subsided into the newspaper, when  
all at once I was constrained to remark  
in mild, sweet tones, "Mr. T., if you  
would look over your ear I think you  
are dropping your pen." It was even so;  
he drew it forth with a very combination  
expression of consternation. The clerks  
turned hastily to their desks and began  
to write for life; the book-keeper rushed  
into the hall, and the boy tumbled in a  
heap. I smiled the book-keeper. Mr. T.  
made a desperate effort to look savage,  
but as for me, not being inspired with  
any great amount of awe thereat, I sat  
down and laughed till I was weak and  
crimson, and was threatened with being  
doctored next pay day. Well, so runs  
the world away.  
Ah, yes, Bon Ami, but how do you  
know I've got any sister!  
Oh, yes, I have seen Nina's wonderful  
baby, and he tried to pull out my bangs.

From the Backwoods.  
DEAR HOME CIRCLE: I am not one of  
your readers, but I do enjoy reading  
its productions very much, and would like  
to join you. I never could express my  
thoughts in a way I would like to do,  
consequently the duty of writing essays  
at school was one of the hardest imposed  
upon me. We are living in a tiny set-  
tled "backwoods" neighborhood, and  
see and hear so little that is calculated to  
improve the mind, that if it were not for  
the letters and papers we receive, and  
the congenial "newcomers," we meet  
about once in a month, life would  
become monotonous, and our minds  
would grow somewhat morbid. The  
H. C. is one of the oases in the desert.  
Am getting anxious to hear those essays  
on different subjects.  
With good wishes for your future wel-  
fare and happiness, I close.  
CONSTANCE.  
Summerville, Mo.

From Tusta-Nug-get-Mathia.  
FRIENDS OF THE HOME CIRCLE: It  
has been a long time since I have written  
anything for the Circle. We have had  
some very cold weather for the last six  
weeks, and as Lloyd Guyot said in his  
last, I loved my toes, but thought I was  
going to lose them.

I liked Mary Glendolen's poem,  
Mother. What a dear name! The first  
word that we are taught in childhood,  
and by many the last spoken. True, she  
has said, among most sacred memories I  
hold my mother dear. Who is it that  
cares for us in our childhood? Mother;  
and she it is that is the first to our relief  
in sickness, and the last to leave us.  
Blessings on the precious mother!

Lloyd Guyot informs us that Fred is  
still alive, and is still keeping time with  
him from the marshes of Ham-sham—O  
hold on, I believe it is Ham lake. Lloyd  
must have got on the bank, catch him by  
the heels, Fred, and pull him back, so the  
concert will be complete. I fear he will  
catch cold during this warm weather,  
and his voice will be injured.

I am glad to see that the Col. is going  
to get the Circle to business.  
Augusta, let us hear from you on the  
subject of milking. I think I can sym-  
patize with you, I used to have to milk.  
I used to go to the Asbury Manual Labor  
school, and the boys had all the work to  
do; some worked on the farm, some  
washed dishes (when I began) and some  
milked (when I ended) the cows. At  
the close of school I found myself one  
of the latter. Augusta leads us to believe  
she is a rider, (only wish she lived near).  
I would like to have some help to water  
horses and break ponies. I rode once a  
few days ago that was a splendid dance,  
sometimes he was dancing a round  
dance, and the next thing I knew, he  
would be trying to square up by standing  
on his head. Well, to tell the truth, he  
pitched for half an hour; don't you  
know I had a jolly ride. Well, I will  
close, for fear the Col. will wish he had  
never heard of the red man.

TUSTA-NUG-GET-MATHIA.  
(English.—EDGAR W. NEAL.)  
Muskogee, I. T.

An Old Friend Returns.  
FOR THE HOME CIRCLE: I want to  
tell you about a cactus I have; it is 15  
years old, a foot high and 3-1/2 feet in  
circumference. It is in a large dish pan  
now, but I will have to put it in a tub  
before long, as the pan is full. I do not  
know the real name of it. I call it pin  
cushion cactus. I have two of the same  
kind of the same age. One of them I  
have kept entirely free from sets, and no  
one who sees them imagines for a moment  
that they are the same species. It  
blooms when young, a satiny green blis-  
som full of yellow stamens. I will send  
a set to anyone sending me one variety  
of cactus or three varieties of chrysanthem-  
um. I have another cactus 13 years  
old, which has never bloomed. What  
shall I do with it?

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From Tusta-Nug-get-Mathia.  
FRIENDS OF THE HOME CIRCLE: It  
has been a long time since I have written  
anything for the Circle. We have had  
some very cold weather for the last six  
weeks, and as Lloyd Guyot said in his  
last, I loved my toes, but thought I was  
going to lose them.

I liked Mary Glendolen's poem,  
Mother. What a dear name! The first  
word that we are taught in childhood,  
and by many the last spoken. True, she  
has said, among most sacred memories I  
hold my mother dear. Who is it that  
cares for us in our childhood? Mother;  
and she it is that is the first to our relief  
in sickness, and the last to leave us.  
Blessings on the precious mother!

Lloyd Guyot informs us that Fred is  
still alive, and is still keeping time with  
him from the marshes of Ham-sham—O  
hold on, I believe it is Ham lake. Lloyd  
must have got on the bank, catch him by  
the heels, Fred, and pull him back, so the  
concert will be complete. I fear he will  
catch cold during this warm weather,  
and his voice will be injured.

I am glad to see that the Col. is going  
to get the Circle to business.  
Augusta, let us hear from you on the  
subject of milking. I think I can sym-  
patize with you, I used to have to milk.  
I used to go to the Asbury Manual Labor  
school, and the boys had all the work to  
do; some worked on the farm, some  
washed dishes (when I began) and some  
milked (when I ended) the cows. At  
the close of school I found myself one  
of the latter. Augusta leads us to believe  
she is a rider, (only wish she lived near).  
I would like to have some help to water  
horses and break ponies. I rode once a  
few days ago that was a splendid dance,  
sometimes he was dancing a round  
dance, and the next thing I knew, he  
would be trying to square up by standing  
on his head. Well, to tell the truth, he  
pitched for half an hour; don't you  
know I had a jolly ride. Well, I will  
close, for fear the Col. will wish he had  
never heard of the red man.

TUSTA-NUG-GET-MATHIA.  
(English.—EDGAR W. NEAL.)  
Muskogee, I. T.

An Old Friend Returns.  
FOR THE HOME CIRCLE: I want to  
tell you about a cactus I have; it is 15  
years old, a foot high and 3-1/2 feet in  
circumference. It is in a large dish pan  
now, but I will have to put it in a tub  
before long, as the pan is full. I do not  
know the real name of it. I call it pin  
cushion cactus. I have two of the same  
kind of the same age. One of them I  
have kept entirely free from sets, and no  
one who sees them imagines for a moment  
that they are the same species. It  
blooms when young, a satiny green blis-  
som full of yellow stamens. I will send  
a set to anyone sending me one variety  
of cactus or three varieties of chrysanthem-  
um. I have another cactus 13 years  
old, which has never bloomed. What  
shall I do with it?

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